

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC (BERG, BERNARD), LU

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

REF: STATE 181154

1. IN A LUNCHEON MEETING ON DECEMBER 10 WITH THE AMBASSADOR, MINISTER BERG CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES SOMETIME BETWEEN MARCH 15 AND THE END OF APRIL 1976. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, PITTSBURGH, SEVERAL MEDIUM-SIZED OR SMALLER CITIES, AND TOURIST ATTRACTIONS SUCH AS THE GRAND CANYON, DISNEYWORLD OR DISNEYLAND AND THE CALIFORNIA COAST. A SUGGESTED ITINERARY FOLLOWS:

2. IN WASHINGTON BERG WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE AND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT CONGRESS AND MEET WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES IN HIS AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY. HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE ILO WITH U.S. UNION LEADERS, PARTICULARLY MR. MEANY. SPECIFIC UNIONS OF INTEREST TO HIM ARE THE INTERNATIONAL STEEL WORKERS' UNION AND THE UNITED MINE WORKERS.

3. BERG SAID HE IS ALSO INTERESTED IN THE U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY PLANS FOR FINANCING BENEFITS IN THE FUTURE; PUBLIC HOUSING, WITH EMPHASIS ON INTEGRATED PROJECTS IN THE LOWER AND MIDDLE INCOME LEVELS. BERG IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A NEW CITY ON THE SITE OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

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IN LUXEMBOURG WHERE A MIXED COMMUNITY OF LOW, MIDDLE

AND UPPER INCOME HOUSES AND APARTMENTS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED. WHILE IN THE WASHINGTON AREA, IT MIGHT, THEREFORE, BE INTERESTING FOR HIM TO VISIT COLUMBIA, MARYLAND, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA. HE ALSO HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY AND WOULD LIKE TO VISIT A CENTER FOR OLDER PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY ONE WHERE AN ATTEMPT IS MADE TO PROVIDE INTERACTION BETWEEN ELDERLY AND YOUNGER PEOPLE.

4. IN NEW YORK BERG WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A GENERAL TOUR OF THE CITY, A VISIT TO THE U.N. AND SOME EXPOSURE TO THE CITY'S DRUG ADDICTION PROBLEMS. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW, A 2-2 AND A HALF DAY STOP-OVER IN NEW YORK WOULD BE SUFFICIENT.

5. IN PITTSBURGH THE MINISTER SHOULD VISIT THE U.S. STEEL CORPORATION HEADQUARTERS. THIS COULD BE COMBINED WITH A VISIT TO COAL MINE OPERATIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA OR WEST VIRGINIA AND COULD ALSO TIE IN WITH MEETINGS WITH STEEL AND MINE WORKERS UNIONS. IF POSSIBLE, HE SHOULD VISIT THE HEADQUARTERS OF ONE OR MORE OF THE MAIN AMERICAN MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES OPERATING IN LUXEMBOURG, I.E. GOODYEAR, DUPONT OR MONSANTO.

6. THE MINISTER IS ALSO FASCINATED BY THE AMERICAN ELECTORAL PROCESS, AND IF THE TIMING IS RIGHT, A CLOSE LOOK AT ONE OF THE PRIMARY CAMPAIGNS WOULD BE OF INTEREST.

7. VISITS TO THE GRAND CANYON, THE CALIFORNIA COAST AND ONE OF THE NATIONAL PARKS, PLUS DISNEYLAND OR DISNEY-WORLD, WOULD GIVE BERG A BROAD EXPOSURE TO THE SCOPE AND VARIETY OF THE UNITED STATES. TRAVEL TO THE WEST COAST COULD INCLUDE STOP-OVERS IN ONE OR MORE SMALL OR MEDIUM-SIZED CITIES. SINCE HIS HOMETOWN OF DUDELANGE HAS ONLY 15,000 INHABITANTS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT HIS ACTIVITIES NOT BE CONFINED TO LARGE URBAN AREAS BUT THAT HE HAVE A CHANCE TO MEET WITH PEOPLE IN SMALLER COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES WHOSE EXPERIENCE WOULD BE MORE RELEVANT TO HIM.

8. BERG IS AN OUTGOING, FRIENDLY, GREGARIOUS MAN WHO WILL WELCOME HOME HOSPITALITY, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIMILAR IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BACKGROUND TO LUXEMBOURG, SUCH AS STEEL PRODUCING OR MINING AREAS. HE MIGHT ALSO BE PLEASED TO MAKE CONTACTS IN THE LARGE COMMUNITY OF LUXEMBOURG DESCENDANTS IN THE CHICAGO AREA.

9. THE MINISTER WILL BE TRAVELING ALONE WITHOUT MRS. BERG. HE WILL NEED AN INTERPRETER/ESCORT. WHILE HE SPEAKS BOTH FRENCH AND GERMAN, HE IS PERHAPS MOST

COMFORTABLE IN GERMAN. FARKAS

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